

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 8, 12, 16, 20, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31-35, 38, 42, 46, 50, 52, 55, 57, 59, 61, 133, 134, 140, 151, 152, 158, 169-172, 174, 192-194, 196 and 214 are pending in this application, all of which have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 6, 7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 36, 37, 39-41, 43-45, 47-49, 51, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62-132, 135-139, 141-150, 153-157, 159-168, 173, 175-191, 195, and 197-213, including the non-elected claims, have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 31, 61, 133, 151, 169, 170, 192 and 214 are independent claims.

Applicants note that the Office has not yet acknowledged the filing either of the certified copies of the priority documents, or of the two Information Disclosure Statements filed thus far in this application. It is assumed, and requested, that such acknowledgment will be provided in the Examiner's next Action.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration on the merits, and early passage to issue, of the elected claims.

